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High-Growth High Schools in Arkansas Based on Performance on the ACT Aspire Examinations

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ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
Volume 17, Issue 1

**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-GROWTH ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2019**

**HIGH-GROWTH HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS
BASED ON PERFORMANCE ON THE ACT
ASPIRE EXAMINATIONS**

October 30, 2019

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INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Office for Education Policy is to examine educational issues through the lens of academic research and disseminate our findings to educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders around Arkansas. Annually, we highlight excellent schools around the state in our **Outstanding Educational Performance Awards**, or the OEP awards.

This edition of the **OEP Awards** highlights schools in Arkansas based on student growth on the ACT Aspire exams in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA). This is a departure from prior awards, which were based on student proficiency.

We choose to focus on student growth for these OEP awards because we think it is a better reflection than proficiency rates of how the school is impacting students. Growth is calculated at the student level, and essentially reflects how much a student improved his or her score from the prior year compared to what was predicted based on prior achievement history. Proficiency rates, even those that move beyond the ‘percent proficient’ like our OEP GPA and Arkansas’ weighted achievement score, are more correlated with student demographics than growth scores. This means that schools can demonstrate high student growth regardless of the characteristics of the students that they serve.

In the 2018-19 academic year, ACT Aspire examinations were administered to students in grades 3 through 10 in Math, Reading, Writing, English and Science. For the purposes of this report, the scores obtained in Reading, Writing and English were combined to create a combined ELA score.

For the purposes of these awards, we are using the content-area growth calculated and reported by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). Note that we used only growth for math and English Language Arts, excluding the growth score for English Learner progress to English Language Proficiency). In addition, we identify the highest growth schools by school level as identified by the ADE under Arkansas’ ESSA Plan: Elementary, Middle, and High school level. In this report, we present a list of the top 20 schools in the state for Overall growth (average of Math and ELA growth), Math growth, and ELA growth. In some cases, these “top 20 lists” will contain more than 20 schools as some schools’ growth scores will be identical. This is not a new phenomenon, as we also exceeded 20 schools in previous reports when using the OEP GPA as an indicator for student achievement.

In the following weeks, we will focus on high-growth elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the various regions across the state. We will conclude this edition of the report by highlighting schools that are beating the odds (that is, schools that have high levels of student growth while serving a high percentage of low-income students).

We are pleased to be able to highlight how students are growing academically in schools across the state, and hope the information will spark discussion among stakeholders about how to ensure all schools are growing the knowledge of Arkansas students.

III. 2019 OEP AWARDS: HIGH ACHIEVING HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON CONTENT GROWTH IN THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMS

This section highlights elementary schools across the state whose students demonstrated high growth on the Arkansas ACT Aspire exams. The ACT Aspire was administered to students in grades 3 through 10 in April 2019 in Math and ELA courses which include English, Writing, and Reading.

Each table in this section presents the Top 20 schools for the noted subject area and school level. In addition, these tables include the region in which the schools are located, the grades served at the school, the weighted achievement score, and the content growth score in that particular subject.

The level of the schools, namely Elementary, Middle, and High, have been based on the school allocation given through the [My School Info](#) portal of the Arkansas Department of Education website.

G. High School Overall ACT Aspire Scores, 2019

Table 37: Top 20 **High Schools** in Arkansas based on **Overall** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Overall Content Growth
1	LISA Academy North High Charter (LISA Academy)	CN	9-12	86.04
2	Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	NE	7-12	85.81
3	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	NW	7-12	84.84
4	Haas Hall Academy At The Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	84.52
5	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	84.51
6	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	84.27
7	Danville High (Danville)	NW	9-12	84.14
8	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	CN	8-9	84.11
9	Pottsville High (Pottsville)	NW	10-12	84.07
10	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	CN	9-12	83.98
11	Eureka Springs High (Eureka Springs)	NW	9-12	83.79
12	Quitman High (Quitman)	NE	9-12	83.61
13	Concord High (Concord)	NE	7-12	83.24
14	Kingston High (Jasper)	NW	7-12	83.02
15	Conway Junior High (Conway)	CN	8-9	83.01
16	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	NE	7-12	82.90
17	Murfreesboro High (South Pike County)	SW	7-12	82.80
18	Flippin High (Flippin)	NW	9-12	82.76
19	Southside Charter High (Southside Independence))	NE	10-12	82.56
19	Hazen High (Hazen)	SE	9-12	82.56
19	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	NE	7-12	82.56

Tables 38-42: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Regions, **Overall Growth**



Table 38: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Overall High ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	7-12	232	84.84
2	Haas Hall Academy At The Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	205	84.52
3	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	294	84.51
4	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	176	84.27
5	Danville High (Danville)	9-12	122	84.14



Table 39: Top 5 schools in the **Northeast** Region based on **Overall High ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	7-12	99	85.81
2	Quitman High (Quitman)	9-12	84	83.61
3	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	123	83.24
4	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	7-12	65	82.90
5	Southside Charter High (Southside Independence))	10-12	134	82.56
5	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	7-12	199	82.56



Table 40: Top 5 schools in the **Central** Region based on **Overall** High ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	LISA Academy North High Charter (LISA Academy)	9-12	112	86.04
2	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	8-9	494	84.11
3	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	9-12	138	83.98
4	Conway Junior High (Conway)	8-9	1341	83.01
5	Sheridan High (Sheridan)	10-12	259	82.39



Table 41: Top 5 schools in the **Southwest** Region based on **Overall** High ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Murfreesboro High (South Pike County)	7-12	186	82.80
2	Ashdown High (Ashdown)	9-12	197	81.85
3	Fouke High (Fouke)	9-12	148	81.55
4	Sparkman High (Harmony Grove (Ouachita))	7-12	38	81.47
5	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	91	81.39



Table 42: Top 5 schools in the *Southeast* Region based on *Overall* High ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Hazen High (Hazen)	9-12	64	82.56
2	Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	7-12	160	82.37
3	Barton High (Barton-Lexa)	7-12	211	82.22
4	Rison High (Cleveland County)	6-12	323	81.83
5	Dewitt High (Dewitt)	9-12	156	81.12

H. High School Math ACT Aspire Scores, 2019

Table 43: Top 10 **High Schools** in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire **Math** Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Math Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Academy At The Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	88.57
2	Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	NE	7-12	87.03
3	LISA Academy North High Charter (LISA Academy)	CN	9-12	86.78
3	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	NW	7-12	86.78
5	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	86.72
6	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	86.55
7	Quitman High (Quitman)	NE	9-12	86.10
8	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	CN	9-12	85.23
9	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	CN	8-9	85.11
10	Danville High (Danville)	NW	9-12	84.70

Tables 44-48: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Regions, **Math Growth**



Table 44: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Academy At The Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	205	88.57
2	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	7-12	232	86.78
3	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	176	86.72
4	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	294	86.55
5	Danville High (Danville)	9-12	122	84.70



Table 45: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	7-12	99	87.03
2	Quitman High (Quitman)	9-12	84	86.10
3	Maynard High (Maynard)	7-12	140	83.85
4	Southside Charter High (Southside Independence))	10-12	134	83.68
5	Gosnell High (Gosnell)	7-12	369	83.54



Table 46: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	LISA Academy North High Charter (LISA Academy)	9-12	112	86.78
2	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	9-12	138	85.23
3	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	8-9	493	85.11
4	Conway Junior High (Conway)	8-9	1341	84.66
5	eSTEM High (eSTEM Public Charter School)	10-12	170	83.12



Table 47: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Murfreesboro High (South Pike County)	7-12	186	83.34
2	Smackover High (Smackover-Norphlet)	9-12	170	82.48
3	Arkansas High (Texarkana)	9-12	435	82.01
4	Ashdown High (Ashdown)	9-12	197	81.61
5	El Dorado High (El Dorado)	9-12	592	81.55



Table 48: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Barton High (Barton-Lexa)	7-12	211	84.09
2	Hazen High (Hazen)	9-12	64	83.55
3	Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	7-12	160	82.87
4	Rison High (Cleveland County)	6-12	323	82.36
5	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	159	81.60

I. High School ELA ACT Aspire Scores, 2019

Table 49: Top 10 **High Schools** in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire **ELA** Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	ELA Content Growth
1	Shirley High (Shirley)	NW	7-12	83.12
2	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	NE	7-12	83.02
3	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	NW	7-12	82.91
4	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	CN	9-12	82.73
5	Clarksville High (Clarksville)	NW	10-12	82.68
6	Ouachita High (Ouachita)	CN	7-12	82.67
7	Jasper High (Jasper)	NW	7-12	82.66
8	Greenland High (Greenland)	NW	9-12	82.55
9	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	NE	7-12	82.52
10	Flippin High (Flippin)	NW	9-12	82.51

Tables 50-54: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Regions, **ELA Growth**



Table 50: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on High **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Shirley High (Shirley)	7-12	98	83.12
2	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	7-12	232	82.91
3	Clarksville High (Clarksville)	10-12	180	82.68
4	Jasper High (Jasper)	7-12	141	82.66
5	Greenland High (Greenland)	9-12	97	82.55



Table 51: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on High **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	7-12	65	83.02
2	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	7-12	198	82.52
3	Beebe High (Beebe)	9-12	479	82.16
4	Tuckerman High (Jackson Co.)	8-12	194	81.98
5	Palestine-Wheatley Senior High (Palestine-Wheatley)	7-12	228	81.97



Table 52: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on High **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	9-12	138	82.73
2	Ouachita High (Ouachita)	7-12	164	82.67
3	Mills University Studies High (Pulaski County Special)	9-12	272	82.48
4	Poyen High (Poyen)	7-12	182	82.34
5	Sheridan High (Sheridan)	10-12	257	82.20



Table 53: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on High **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Murfreesboro High (South Pike County)	7-12	185	82.34
2	Fouke High (Fouke)	9-12	147	82.21
3	Ashdown High (Ashdown)	9-12	197	82.10
4	Sparkman High (Harmony Grove (Ouachita))	7-12	38	81.96
5	Acorn High (Ouachita River)	7-12	158	81.85



Table 54: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on High **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	7-12	160	81.86
2	Hazen High (Hazen)	9-12	64	81.56
3	Clarendon High (Clarendon)	7-12	102	81.45
4	Rison High (Cleveland County)	6-12	323	81.31
5	KIPP:Delta Collegiate High (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	9-12	90	81.27

APPENDIX

A. Methods

All data used in this report were obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education via the link <https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov/Plus/Schools>.

We generated a statewide report for the 2018-19 school year, using the ESSA School Index report. Values included

- Grade Range
- Grade Span (School Level)
- Poverty Rate
- Combined Content Growth Score Current Year
- Combined Math Growth Score Current Year
- Combined ELA Growth Score Current Year

For more information about how school levels were assigned, see [http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents to Share/Grade Spans and Grade Configurations rv.pdf](http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents%20to%20Share/Grade%20Spans%20and%20Grade%20Configurations%20rv.pdf)

For more information about how growth values were calculated, see [http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents to Share/School%20Growth%20Explanation%20for%20ES%20and%20DC%20111017.pdf](http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents%20to%20Share/School%20Growth%20Explanation%20for%20ES%20and%20DC%20111017.pdf)